

Speech to House of Representatives Underscores Congressman's Commitment to Free Speech,

Asserts Puerto Ricans Cannot Be Silenced

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, DC) – Today, Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez spoke before the House of Representatives about the ongoing civil rights crisis in Puerto Rico, reiterated his commitment to free speech, and asserted that neither he nor the Puerto Rican people would be silenced.

"As a member of Congress, it is more than my right – it is my obligation to speak out when fundamental freedoms are attacked," Rep. Gutierrez said.

He went on to say, "My critics have the right of free-speech even as they deny that same right to others. And I want them to understand this: Your efforts to silence me - just like your efforts to silence so many people in Puerto Rico who disagree with you - will fail, just as every effort to blockade progress only makes the march toward justice more powerful and swift."

In addition, the Congressman published an article adapted from the speech on the popular and influential blogging site, the Huffington Post, entitled "On the Puerto Rican People: 'You Will Not Silence Them and You Will Not Silence Me'" (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rep-luis-gutierrez/on-the-puerto-rican-peopl_b_830307.html)

The text of the speech as prepared for delivery is available here: http://www.gutierrez.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=645%3Aremarks-by-rep-luis-v-gutierrez&catid=48&Itemid=72

A video of the Congressman's speech is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUy-cglbAGg>

A video of the Congressman's previous speech (February 15) is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJhmoV01xQI>

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